14th November 1949]

"(f) Rate of wages are being revised from time to time by the Public Works Department and the Forest Department with reference to the cost of living index. Revenue Department is adopting Public Works Department Schedule of rates in employing labour on road and building works. No other measures have been taken in regard to provision of amenities."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, till the Government come to a decision regarding the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, will they advise their officers to see that when contractors entertain hands under them, the particular rates of wages which Government pay to their own employees are paid to them by them also?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" That point is also generally taken into consideration, when the Government entrust the work to the contractors, but the question of putting it as a condition in the contract, is a thing which will have to be considered, Sir."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, what steps the Government actually take to see that the contractor pays the minimum living wage, even according to the Government standard of the cost of living index, to the labour employed by them?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is generally very difficult, Sir, to enforce such a condition as that, but if we get complaints from individual labourers, we shall enquire into the matter and take action to redress their grievances."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that under the Payment of Wages Act, the wages to be paid by the contractor, should be paid in the presence of a gazetted officer or a responsible officer of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" It is quite possible that there may not be such a system in vogue in some places, but I have had no specific complaints brought to my notice in this regard by anybody."

*Introduction of rationing in the upland areas of some surplus districts.*

* 10 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether the Government have issued instructions for the introduction of rationing in the upland areas of some surplus districts?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Yes."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the people residing in the area have protested against the introduction of rationing there?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Originally it was proposed to introduce rationing in all surplus districts and in all statutorily rationed areas and also in the deficit

[14th November 1949

taluks of the surplus districts. But on representations from the people, we have now taken away rationing from the municipal towns of surplus districts, but in upland areas of some surplus districts also, we are still introducing rationing as advised by the Collectors of the districts concerned."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that people residing in those areas have actually petitioned against rationing, because it does not benefit them?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Several representations have been received in the matter, and recently during my visits to those places also, personal representations were made, and these are under the consideration of the Government."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" If the people of the locality are against the introduction of rationing, why should the Government impose it against their will, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" It is also the interests of people in other areas, that this question of rationing has got to be considered by the Government. We do not want that the surplus produce in the surplus areas should be wasted, and so we want them to be transported to other deficit areas, where people are suffering from scarcity."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, I am only speaking against the introduction of rationing in deficit areas, because there is no question of surplus produce being exported to other areas from there?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" This will act as a check against foodgrains being freely imported into those deficit areas."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that no one subsists on the ration allowed by the Government, but that people purchase the balance of their requirements from the blackmarket?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" I have no information, Sir, on that question."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that rationing has only increased corruption and blackmarket?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" This matter has been discussed for a very long time, but still we have thought that rationing is the best means of meeting the present situation in the country."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the cost of foodgrains also increases, because the Government have set up a huge machinery to administer the rationing system, which adds to their cost?"

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Naturally, to meet the expenses of the Rationing department and the

14th November 1949]

agencies employed in procurement and distribution, the Government have to increase the price of the foodgrains, but that is inevitable, because in the interests of the Province as a whole, rationing has to be kept up.''

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are meeting this extra expenditure themselves, or whether it is passed on to the consumers? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" At present it is passed on to the consumer, Sir."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that previously the Government were meeting such expenditure themselves, without passing it on to the consumer? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Previously also the Government were incurring such expenditure and passing it on to the consumer."

**[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]**

## II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages received from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

**'(1) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949 (L A. Bill No. 24 of 1949), as passed by the Assembly on the 10th November 1949, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.**

**'(2) In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949, (L.A. Bill No. 25 of 1949,), as passed by the Assembly on the 12th November 1949, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council."**

## III.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

### ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE HON. PRESIDENT.

I have to announce to the House that under rule 9 of the Madras Council Rules, I have nominated the following four members of the Council to be the panel of Chairman for the Eleventh Session of the Council :—

(1) Sri S. Jayaram Reddi.
(2) Mrs. M. N. Clubwala.
(3) Dr. Syed Tajuddin.
(4) Sri R. Ramakrishna Naidu.

## IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

### (1) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that under rule* 143 *of the Madras Council Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the President.*' "